

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**

**December 17, 2006**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**11:00 A.M.**

WELCOME AND INVOCATION.....The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

PRELUDE: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*..... Wagner  
MSM Handbells

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH.. Donovan Fair, J.P. Justice, Dylan McIntire, Charlie Heilman  
Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it again, along with the candle of hope, to show that hope and peace come only through Jesus Christ.

**People: Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: The third candle is the candle of joy. Christ fills our hearts with joy, and he will fill the world with his everlasting joy when he comes again.

**People: We are preparing for the days spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, when the people of God shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace, when the mountains and the hills shall break forth in singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands in celebration.**

Leader: Today we light the candle of joy. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the joy we have in Jesus Christ.

**People: We are the people of joy, God’s people, gathered in his name. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*..... No. 185

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION..... Graham Sledge

**God of the future: you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom to come. We have lived casual lives. We have ignored your promised judgment. We have been slow to serve you. Forgive us for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, your Son and our Lord, whose triumph we eagerly wait for. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON..... Elizabeth Brawley

Leader: Scripture says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone; behold, the new has come.” Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE: Chorus from *Angels We Have Heard on High*..... No. 188

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

ANTHEM: *There Once Was A Man*..... Anderson  
Logos Choir with Corinne Sink, John Donelson, and Kaylee Brumley, soloists

CHILDREN’S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7..... Curtis Crews

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles’ Creed*..... John Price

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ,**

**his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*HYMN: *What Child Is This*..... No. 184

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

MEDITATIONS: *What Jesus Means to Me*..... Jordan Sledge, Hunter Crawford

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Star-Child*..... Young  
Combined Choirs with Harrison Deaton, violin; Savannah McCachem and Logan Prochaska, soloists

\*RESPONSE: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*..... No. 34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Paul Beaver

SERMON LESSON: *Luke 1:26-56*..... Caroline Ladd, Emily Horsman

**SERMON**

*Myth Becoming Fact: The God We’re Dealing With*

**Dr. Brown**

\*HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verses 1-3)..... No. 180

\*INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verse 4)..... No. 180

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

POSTLUDE: *Carillon on “Comfort Ye”*..... Fedak

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\* **Those who are able** will please stand.

**If you are our guest today**, welcome to First Presbyterian! We’re so glad you’re worshiping with us. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and speak with one of the pastors following the service. God bless you! Please return to worship with us again.

**Members of Kairos**, our Wednesday night program for senior highs, are assisting with today’s service.

## *Announcements*

**You can become part of the First Presbyterian family of faith today** by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. The Session meets after every service to receive new members. Please speak with Fred Coates, our associate pastor, following today's service.

**Next Sunday's sermon** continues the *Myth Becoming Fact* sermon series, with the Rev. Dr. Fred Coates preaching on "Good News Comes to Earth" from Luke 2:1-20.

**Christian sympathy** is expressed to Maria Heilman and family in the death of her brother, Fernando "Pito" deAndres Loste, on December 12. Pito lived in Spain with the rest of Maria's family.

**The Promise-Driven Life—2007 Pledges:** If you have not had the opportunity to respond to "The Promise-Driven Life" for 2007, please do so at your earliest opportunity. *Please step out in faith as God leads you to do, trusting in his promises for your time, talent, and treasure.*

**December Offerings to the Operating Fund:** FPC consists of giving, generous people! December is the month in which we typically make up some financial ground before the year's end. Our desire is to fund fully our ministries and missions for this year and to end in the "black." Please continue to give your usual tithes and offerings, and consider an additional gift to the Operating Fund this month.

**Worship with us on Christmas Eve:** We invite everyone to join us for worship on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. We will begin with Church School at 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The sermon will be "Good News Comes to Earth." We *will not* have an early worship service at 8:30 a.m. on that Sunday. In the evening, we will have two "Candlelight and Carols" services, one at 5:00 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. with a sermon titled "The Grand Miracle." Both services will provide an opportunity to sing familiar carols, enjoy the Cherub Choir and contribute to our denomination's "Joy Offering" which supports retired ministers and racially ethnic colleges.

**Cherub Choir:** All children, preschool age through first grade, are invited to participate in a Cherub Choir during the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Practices will be held during church school, beginning this Sunday. Please contact Ellen Auten or Nancy Kortright if you have questions about the choir.

**Logos/Middle School Ministry/Kairos Registration:** Registration for second semester Logos (grades 1-6), Middle School Ministry (MSM – grades 7-8), and Kairos (grades 9-12) will take place the next three Sundays in the church parlor, after the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Returning participants should fill out a second semester form, and new participants should pick up registration forms and program information. Fees include a \$30 registration fee (new participants only) and a \$45 per semester tuition fee. **Second semester registration deadline is Wednesday, January 3.** Scholarship help is available upon request. Second semester begins on Wednesday, January 10.

**Saints Alive Luncheon:** The monthly Saints Alive luncheon will be held this Tuesday, December 19, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall (\$4). The program will be presented by Charlotte Lundy Soutullo, author of the *Thank You, God* children's book series. Come and bring a friend to a festive holiday luncheon!

**Cherub Choir:** All children, preschool age through first grade, are invited to participate in a Cherub Choir during the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Practice will be held this morning in the fellowship hall, immediately following the Christmas pageant.

**Announcements are continued on calendar page.**



11:00 a.m. Worship  
First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue  
Mooresville, North Carolina

*The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...*

Habakkuk 2:20

## *Calendar*

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Church School Christmas Pageant in FH  
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Kairos, Logos Choir and MSM Handbells  
**Logos Registration**  
4:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord (No.6) at the home of Diana Hyman  
5:15 p.m. - PYF Christmas Party and Caroling  
7:00 p.m. - Deacon's Meeting in room 300  
7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting in the parlor
- Monday: 9:30 a.m. - "Moms in Touch" in the Session room
- Tuesday: 10:30 p.m. - *Exploring Our Reformed Faith* study in the library  
12:30 p.m. - Saints Alive  
6:00 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack Meeting in Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner  
No Logos/MSM/Kairos  
6:00 p.m. - PYF *Holiday on Ice*
- Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy and Harding Rogers  
7:00 p.m. - Handbell Christmas party
- Sunday 12/24: 8:30 a.m. - **No Early Service today**  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Exaltation Ringers  
5:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service  
7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service

## *Announcements*

**Christmas Pageant:** Everyone is invited to a presentation of the Christmas story this morning at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The pageant will be presented by first through sixth graders, along with the four year old and kindergarten church school classes. Refreshments will be served, and a nursery will be available for children under 3.

**Saints Alive Trip:** Saints Alive is planning a trip to see the "Monet in Normandy" art exhibit at the North Carolina Art Museum in Raleigh on Thursday, January 4. The group plans to leave at 8:30 a.m., and will return in the early evening. Tickets are \$12. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to make a reservation.

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